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Section 9
File
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TO : Assistant Director, Research and Reports
THRU : Special Assistant, Research and Reports
FROM : ORR Representative in SR

DATE: 23 December 1954

SUBJECT: First Quarter Report on ORR-SR Liaison

This is in the nature of a first quarter report on how the ORR-SR liaison agreement is working out. The report evaluates progress so far and suggests what can be done to increase the benefits that ORR is deriving from the agreement.

The Liaison Agreement:

The purpose of the agreement was to establish an ORR man in the Soviet Russia (SR) Division of DDP area where he would be fully integrated in SR organization. It was hoped that the agreement would achieve three things: (1) develop confidence between ORR and SR which would in turn uncover new and better ways of mutual service; (2) make ORR expert knowledge and experience available on a crash basis to SR officers; and (3) open channels so that SR facilities would provide more information useful to ORR research program.

Implementation:

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These answers are provided in the branch on the basis of information in the branch files and the general knowledge of individuals assigned to it. Occasionally others are consulted. The aim of the branch, however, is to function as a security barrier between men responsible for operations and the men conducting research.

This policy of keeping operations under an absolute security blanket and of minimizing the number of persons involved in any operation is the dominant policy in the SR area. It determines practically everything that is done or not done. It is often the cause of extraordinary difficulty, but the policy is justified in SR by the need for absolute protection of personnel.

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Progress:

Under these circumstances, my participation in the work of the branch has been limited to what could be revealed to a stranger. I was allowed, however, to study those branch files which had to do with requirements and found here my first opportunity to advance ORR interests.



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I was encouraged, however, to add ORR guides and requirements documents to the files whenever I considered such additions were desirable. In the last three months some 17 guides, brochures and target lists were made a part of the file. ORR progress [redacted] was publicized in the branch.

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Direct Contributions:

The best contribution we can make to an SR operation is to provide specific requirements and background information which will tell SR officers what information is available about any area or activity.

On four occasions during the last three months I was asked to prepare ORR requirements which were added to support documents for specific operations.

On one occasion ORR analysts were allowed to brief [redacted] who otherwise would have bypassed ORR. On the other occasions we were able to provide test questions and sketches on a crash basis. These were well received by SR officers.

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Of the two kinds of contributions made to date, the direct contribution to SR support documents is more important and more directly helpful to ORR than the roundabout way of influencing SR actions by enriching files which may or may not be consulted.

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Evaluation of Work Done:

The value to ORR of the work done so far depends on whether the judgement is made against the enormous ORR needs for economic information or against the procedure and security barriers of the DDP area.

Practically no success has been achieved in spreading the word of how ORR is organized and how it does its work. I had hoped that the security barrier would be relaxed to the point where I could know what was currently going on in the branch and that I could suggest areas of ORR interest that might be exploited to mutual advantage. Except on the four occasions already mentioned, the security barrier has been maintained.

When the experience of the last three months is judged in the light of SR procedures we can take some satisfaction in what little has been revealed of SR procedures and attitudes. For example, the knowledge of the existence of the file gives us a chance to place ORR materials in it. On those rare occasions when we were invited to contribute, we were able to demonstrate how

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These small benefits are a measure of the gulf between working levels of ORR and SR. The concept of security, lack of agreement on kinds of knowledge that are the stock in trade between ORR and DDP area, recollections of security breaches in the past, lack of agreement on the place of ORR in the intelligence community, directives which give economic intelligence objectives a low priority rating ---- all these are obstacles interposed between ORR and SR.

The slow progress of the past three months suggest that at this rate it will take at least a year or two to reach the point of reasonable return for ORR, unless something can be done to ease the security barrier.

Although time is the most important element in the situation, I believe that any of the following changes, if they can be discussed with responsible DDP officials, would speed up the benefits for ORR:

1. Wider contacts for the ORR man in the DDP area so that he can be exposed to more persons whose work relates to ORR interests.
2. Opportunity for the ORR man to see raw reports so that he could advise editors on what information was valuable to ORR research.

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3. Opportunity to brief DDP branches on how ORR is organized and what kind of work it does.



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